

B12
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communication with a user station 102. Further, the protocol provides for output power adjustment in a user station 102 and a base station 104. A preferred power adjustment command from the base station 104 to the user station 102 may be encoded according to Table 8-2 appearing earlier herein. Although preferred values are provided in Table 8-2, the number of power control command steps and the differential in power adjustment between steps may vary depending upon the particular application and the system specifications. Further information regarding antenna diversity and power adjustment technique may be found in U.S. Patent 6,085,076, hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel the originally filed claims ~~1-29~~.

Amend claims 30-34 as follows:

- B13
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- 1 30. (Once Amended) In a time division multiple access
2 communication system in which a time frame is divided
3 into a plurality of time slots, a method of communication
4 comprising the steps of:
5 communicating between a user station and a first base
6 station; and
7 exchanging a plurality of control traffic messages
8 between said user station and a second base station
9 during a multiple of time slots of a single time

10 frame to hand off said user station from said first
11 base station to said second base station.

1 31. (Once Amended) The method of claim 30, further comprising
2 the step of establishing a duplex communication link
3 between said user station and said second base station
4 after said step of exchanging a plurality of control
5 traffic messages.

1 32. (Once Amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising
2 the step of assigning a time slot for bearer
3 communication between said user station and said second
4 base station in response to said step of exchanging a
5 plurality of control traffic messages.

1 33. (Once Amended) The method of claim 32, further comprising
2 the step of transmitting bearer traffic messages between
3 said user station and said second base station during
4 said time slot assigned for bearer communication.

1 34. (Once Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein said step
2 of exchanging a plurality of control traffic messages
3 between said user station and said second base station
4 comprises the step of transmitting a next slot pointer in
5 each of said plurality of control traffic messages
6 transmitted from said second base station to said user
7 station.

Add the following new claims to the subject application:

35. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of exchanging a plurality of control traffic messages includes the steps of:
transmitting, in a user transmission interval of a time slot of said multiple of time slots in said single time frame, a user control traffic message from said user station to said base station; and
transmitting, in a base transmission interval of said time slot of said multiple of time slots in said single time frame, a base control traffic message from said base station to said user station.

36. (New) A time division multiple access (TDMA) communication system, comprising a plurality of base stations and a user station, said plurality of base stations generating a series of time frames each divided into a plurality of time slots, wherein:
said user station communicates with a first one of said plurality of base stations;
said user station exchanges a plurality of control traffic messages with a second one of said plurality of base stations while communicating with said first base station; and
said user station communicates with said second base station and discontinues communicating with said first base station after exchanging said plurality of control traffic messages with said second base station.

1 37. (New) The TDMA communication system of claim 36, wherein
2 said second base station establishes a duplex
3 communication link with said user station in response to
4 said user station exchanging said plurality of control
5 traffic messages with said second base station.

1 38. (New) The TDMA communication system of claim 37, wherein
2 said second base station further assigns a time slot for
3 bearer communication between said user station and said
4 second base station in response to said user station
5 exchanging said plurality of control traffic messages
6 with said second base station.

1 39. (New) The TDMA communication system of claim 38, wherein
2 said user station and said second base station further
3 transmit bearer traffic messages there between during
4 said time slot assigned for bearer communication.

1 40. (New) The TDMA communication system of claim 36, wherein
2 at least one of said plurality of control traffic
3 messages transmitted to said user station includes a next
4 slot pointer.

1 41. (New) The TDMA communication system of claim 36, wherein:
2 said user station transmits, in a user transmission
3 interval of a time slot of said plurality of time
4 slots in a time frame, a user control traffic
5 message to said base station; and

6 said base station transmits in response to said user
7 control traffic message, in a base transmission
8 interval of said time slot of said plurality of
9 time slots in said time frame, a base control
10 traffic message to said user station.

1 42. (New) In a communication system that establishes a
2 continuous sequence of time frames with each time frame
3 divided into a plurality of time slots, a communication
4 process comprising the steps of:
5 communicating between a user station and a first base
6 station using a first plurality of time slots;
7 exchanging a plurality of control traffic messages
8 between said user station and a second base station
9 during a second plurality of time slots;
10 communicating between said user station and said second
11 base station using said second plurality of time
12 slots; and
13 discontinuing communication between said user station and
14 said first base station.

1 43. (New) The communication process of claim 42, further
2 comprising the step of establishing a duplex
3 communication link between said user station and said
4 second base station after said step of exchanging a
5 plurality of control traffic messages.

1 44. ((New) The communication process of claim 43, further
2 comprising the step of assigning a time slot in said
3 second plurality of time slots for bearer communication
4 between said user station and said second base station in

5 response to said step of exchanging a plurality of
6 control traffic messages.

1 45. (New) The communication process of claim 44, further
2 comprising the step of transmitting bearer traffic
3 messages between said user station and said second base
4 station during said time slot assigned for bearer
5 communication.

214
cont
1 46. (New) The communication process of claim 42, wherein said
2 step of exchanging a plurality of control traffic
3 messages between said user station and said second base
4 station includes the step of transmitting a next slot
5 pointer in one of said plurality of control traffic
6 messages transmitted from said second base station to
7 said user station, said next slot pointer pointing to a
8 subsequent time slot in said second plurality of time
9 slots.

1 47. (New) The communication process of claim 46, wherein said
2 step of exchanging a plurality of control traffic
3 messages between said user station and said second base
4 station further includes the step of transmitting a
5 subsequent one of said plurality of control traffic
6 messages from said user station to said second base
7 station in said subsequent time slot.

014
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1 48. (New) The communication process of claim 42, wherein the
2 step of exchanging a plurality of control traffic
3 messages includes the steps of:
4 transmitting, in a user transmission interval of a time
5 slot of said second plurality of time slots, a user
6 control traffic message from said user station to
7 said base station; and
8 transmitting, in a base transmission interval of said
9 time slot of said second plurality of time slots, a
10 base control traffic message from said base station
11 to said user station.

1 49. (New) The communication process of claim 30, further
2 comprising the steps of:
3 terminating a call between said user station and a
4 network through said first base station in response
5 to the step of discontinuing communication between
6 said user station and said first base station; and
7 establishing said call between said user station and said
8 network through said second base station.
